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AN UNDESCRIBED SCIRPUS FROM CALIFORNIA

BY N. L. BRITTON

Scirpus Congdoni sp. nov.

Perennial by short stout rootstocks. Culms slender, erect, smooth, somewhat trigonous, 4-5 dm. high, leaf-bearing below the middle. Leaves linear, smooth, acuminate, 5-6 mm. wide, the lower ones 1.5-2 dm. long, the upper shorter; involucre leaf similar to the others, 3-7 cm. long; umbel more or less compound, its principal rays 3-6, very slender, 8 cm. long or less; spikelets sessile, capitate at the ends of the rays and raylets, several-flowered, the heads 7-10 mm. in diameter; scales brown, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, rather abruptly acuminate; style 3-cleft; achene pale, trigonous, about 1 mm. long, its short subulate beak about 0.2 mm. long; bristles filiforme, curled, only slightly roughened, rather longer than the achene.

Sierra Nevada, California. Type, preserved in the Dudley Herbarium of Stanford University, collected by J. W. Congdon on the Upper San Joaquin, Madera County, August 18, 1895.

Professor Fernald obligingly informs me that the plant recorded in Dr. Watson's Botany of California as *S. atrovirens*, collected by Mrs. Austin in Plumas County, is referable to the species here described; the Hall and Chandler specimen No. 217 from Pine Ridge, Fresno County, is the same.

Record may here be made that the Oregon plant collected by Howell and referred to *S. atrovirens* in Botany of California is *S. pallidus* (Britton) Fernald, as now determined by Professor Fernald; the Washington sedges recorded by Professor Piper as *S. atrovirens* are also *S. pallidus*.

These studies indicate that all records of *S. atrovirens* from the Pacific States are erroneous.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

OCTOBER 9, 1917

The meeting was held in the lecture room of the Department of Botany, Columbia University. President Richards called the meeting to order at 8:15 P.M. There were 14 members present. The minutes of May 23 were read and approved.

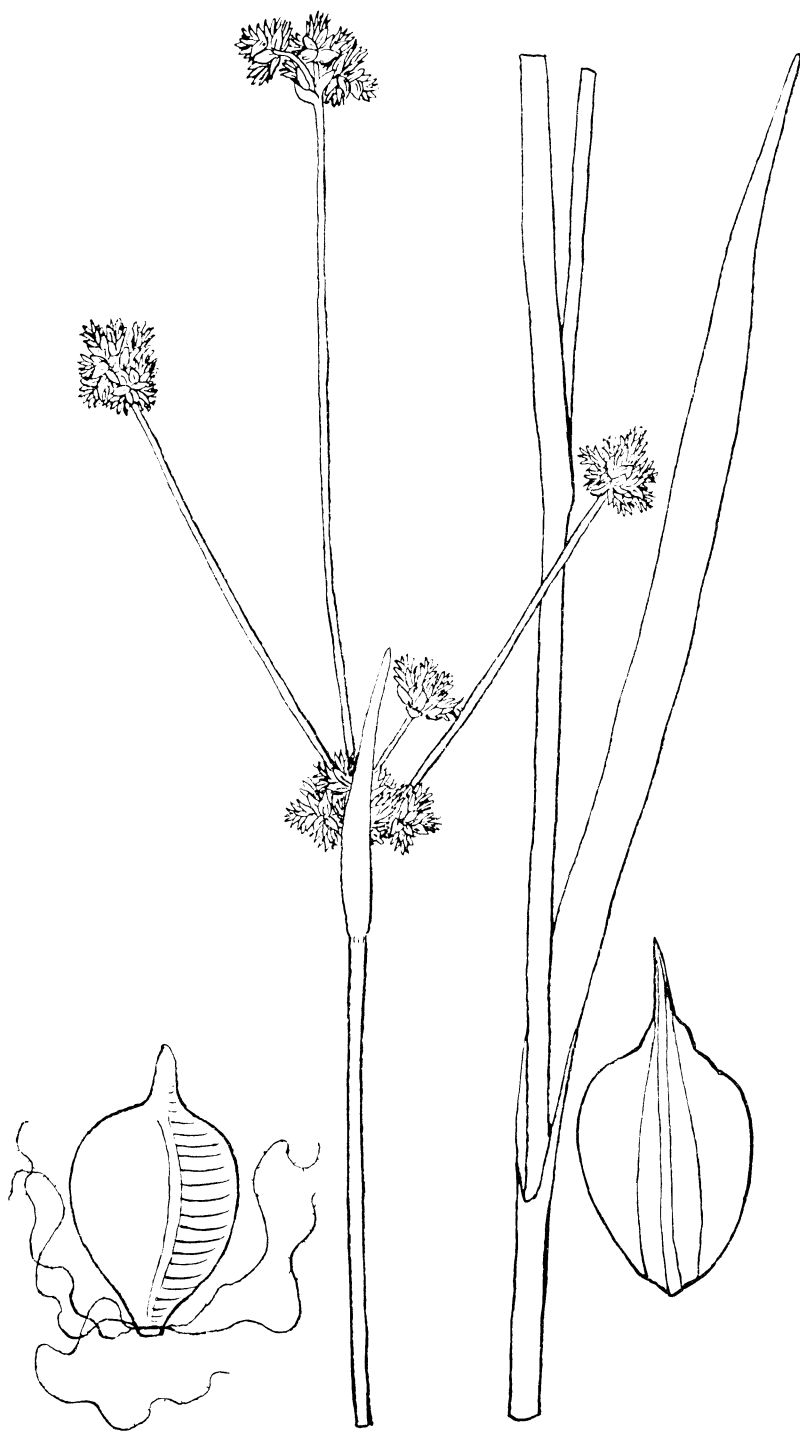


FIG. 1. *Scirpus Congdoni* Britton.

Dr. Stout proposed Professor W. T. Horne, Berkeley, California, and Mr. Wilson proposed Mr. R. Diamant, 2040 7th Avenue, N. Y. for membership.

Dr. M. A. Howe made a brief report on behalf of the committee appointed to make arrangements for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Club, after which it was voted to omit the usual Wednesday meeting of the Club this month.

The election of Professor Horne and Mr. Diamant followed upon the recommendation of Dr. M. Levine for the Committee on Admissions.

The scientific program consisted of informal reports by several members of the Club on their individual botanical experiences of the summer. The following members responded to the call of the President: Professor R. A. Harper, Dr. M. A. Howe, Dr. Beeman Douglass, Professor T. E. Hazen, Dr. M. Levine, Dr. R. M. Harper, Professor J. F. Adams and Professor H. M. Richards. Informal discussions followed each report.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

B. O. DODGE,
Secretary.

NOVEMBER 13, 1917

The meeting was held in the lecture room of the Department of Botany, Columbia University, at 8:15 P.M. President Richards presided. There were 40 persons present.

The minutes of the meeting held October 9 were approved. The following persons were nominated for membership: Professor C. R. Orton, State College, Pa., Professor W. C. Twiss, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Professor Otis Caldwell, Lincoln School, New York City, Professor John Ritchie, 2 A Beech Terrace, Yonkers, N. Y., Mr. Robert Steinberg, Columbia University, N. Y. City, Miss Cornelia Carey, Ludington Road, West Orange, N. J., and Miss Rhoda Benham, Cedarhurst, N. Y.

The committee consisting of the Board of Editors and Dr. Britton, Professor Harper, Dr. Gager and Dr. Barnhart, appointed to consider the question of an abstract journal for botanical papers presented the following report which was read by Dr. Barnhart:

"The Committee on a Proposed American Botanical Abstract Journal voted, among other things, that—

"“This Committee considers an American Botanical Abstract Journal practicable, provided that it can be properly financed’; that

"“This Committee, while recognizing the value and need of an abstract journal, doubts whether this is a propitious time to appeal for endowment for this purpose’; and recommended

"“That Professor R. A. Harper, Dr. C. S. Gager, and Dr. J. H. Barnhart be appointed as representatives of the Torrey Botanical Club at any conference to be held at Pittsburgh during the coming Convocation Week leading to the establishment of an American Botanical Abstract Journal. Each of these representatives being authorized to select a substitute in case he is not present at Pittsburgh.”

The report was approved and the recommendations were adopted by a vote of the Club. The Committee was continued.

The Committee on Admissions having approved the nominations made at the opening of the meeting the following persons were elected to membership: Professor C. R. Orton, Professor W. C. Twiss, Professor Otis Caldwell, Professor John Ritchie, Mr. Robert Steinberg, Miss Cornelia Carey, and Miss Rhoda Benham.

The scientific program consisted of an illustrated lecture on "An Account of a Visit to the Juan Fernandez Islands," by Dr. Carl Skottsberg.

Adjournment followed.

B. O. DODGE,
Secretary.

NEWS ITEMS

Owing to the coal shortage Conservatory Range No. 2 at the New York Botanical Garden was cleared in December, the plants all being housed in the old conservatory range. On January 10 the Brooklyn Botanic Garden reduced by 375 linear feet its greenhouse space, thus crowding the collections in fewer houses, and necessitating the closing of the conservatories to the public.